Control Committees in Union Territories have been designated as the prescribed authority to implement the Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001. These rules have been widely circulated and the implementing agencies have been asked to strictly enforce various provisions of the rules.

Satkosia Forests as Tiger Reserve

2790. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which there has been delay in declaring the Satkosia forests in Orissa as a Project Tiger Reserve; and

(b) what are the lacunae in Satkosia for which such a delay is occurring in view of the recent such declarations in other States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Satkosia is not one of the areas approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for being notified as a Tiger Reserve during the IX Plan. Efforts for inclusion of Satkosia as a Tiger Reserve at the fag end of the last financial year of the IX plan may not be fruitful.

Wildlife Crime Intelligence Cell

2791. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set up a Wildlife Crime Intelligence Cell in the country;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the proposed Cell;

(c) whether the Wildlife crimes in the country are increasing and the State Government; as well as Central Government have failed to check them; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the proposed crime cell would check wildlife crimes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRf T.R. BALLU): (a) and (be) The Central Government has decided to set up a small cell within the Ministry to collect information, assist